



S. 2733 – A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 2733 is expected to be considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) on March 7, 2008. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent the same day.

S. 2733 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 11, 2008.

SUMMARY

S. 2733 extends the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-81) through April 30, 2008; it currently is set to expire on March 31, 2008.

BACKGROUND

On June 28, 2007, the House passed the First Higher Education Extension Act of 2007 (S. 1704) by voice vote. The bill extended the Higher Education Act through July 31, 2007. The President signed this into law on July 3, 2007 (PL 110-44).

The House passed the Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2007 (S. 1868) on July 25, 2007. The bill extended the Higher Education Act through October 31, 2007. The President signed this into law on July 31, 2007 (P.L. 110-51). The House and Senate passed a third short-term extension (S. 2258) of the Higher Education Act in October 2007, which the President signed into law (P.L. 110-109) on October 31, 2007.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society domestic agenda. The goal of this Act was "to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education."

The Higher Education Act authorizes the federal government's student aid programs to support postsecondary education attendance. It also authorizes other major programs such as those providing assistance to special groups of Institutions of Higher Education and support services to enable disadvantaged students to complete secondary school and enter and complete college.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was reauthorized in 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1986, 1992, and 1998. In 2003, many of the programs in the Act were extended through June 30, 2007.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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